

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
OMB-01 TRSE-00 MCT-01 AID-05 FDRE-00 /084 W
-----053483 271457Z /42

O R 271215Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL TRIESTE
TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0916
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMCONSUL TURIN

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 TRIESTE 0310

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJ: REGIONAL ELECTIONS: "FOR TRIESTE" LIST ROCKS DC
AND OTHER TRADITIONAL PARTIES

REF: TRIESTE 291 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY. WHILE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (DC) HELD THEIR OWN
AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL AND THE PCI FOLLOWED ITS PATTERN OF
LOSSES (COMPARED WITH 1976 ELECTIONS) ESTABLISHED IN EARLIER
ELECTIONS, THE "FOR TRIESTE" LIST WHICH BASED ITS APPEAL ON
AN ANTI-OSIMO STANCE CLEARLY SHOWED ITSELF TO BE A POTENTIAL
PROTEST MOVEMENT, ROCKING THE LOCAL DC AND OTHERS BACK ON
THEIR HEELS. THE "FOR TRIESTE" LIST GOT ALMOST 55,000 VOTES
REGIONALLY AND WILL HAVE FOUR OF THE 61 SEATS IN THE REGIONAL
COUNCIL. IT HAS A PLURALITY AT TRIESTE CITY HALL (ABOUT
28 PERCENT OF THE VOTE). SIMILARLY, THE FRIULI MOVEMENT
ALSO GOT A BOOST HANGING ON TO PAST GAINS AND PICKING UP
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SOME STRENGTH IN THE EARTHQUAKE AREAS. THE "FOR TRIESTE"
LIST SEEMS TO HAVE ATTRACTED MUCH OF THE PAST PROTEST VOTE
WHICH USUALLY WENT TO THE MSI AND TO SOME EXTENT TO THE
OTHER SMALL PARTIES, BUT IT ALSO TOOK ALMOST 10,000 VOTES
AWAY FROM THE DC AND PERHAPS ANOTHER 5,000 FROM THE PCI IN
TRIESTE. THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR: IN TRIESTE, AT LEAST, IT IS
NOT POLITICS AS USUAL, AND LOCAL CIIZENS SEEM FED UP WITH

TRADITIONAL PARTY POLITICS, AND STRONG LOCAL FEELINGS ON OSIMO AND THE EARTHQUAKE HAVE BEEN EXACERBATED BY MORO, LEONE, PCI PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT MAJORITY, AND TERRORISM. THE PROBLEM NOW WILL BE TO SET UP VIABLE REGIONAL AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS WHOSE COMPOSITION WILL BE HEAVILY CONDITIONED BY THE LOCAL TRIESTE GROUP.
END SUMMARY.

2. REGIONAL COUNCIL FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA (IN PERCENTAGES)

	1978	1976 POLITICAL	1973 REGIONAL
DC	39.6	42.3	39.7
PCI	21.8	26.6	20.9
PSI	9.5	11.4	12.2
FOR TRIESTE	6.5		
PSDI	5.0	5.4	8.2
PRI	2.3	3.5	2.7
PLI	1.3	1.4	3.6
MSI	4.2	1.4	3.6
SLOVENE MOVEMENT	1.1	0.9	1.3
FRIULI MOVEMENT	4.6	---	3.0

3. OVERALL REGIONAL COUNCIL RESULTS SHOW LITTLE DEVIATION FROM PREVIOUS ELECTIONS: THE DC WILL HAVE 26 SEATS (SAME AS PRESENT), THE PCI GAINED ONE FOR 14, THE SOCIALISTS LOST 3,
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AND THE PSDI AND PLI ONE EACH. THE MSI TOTAL OF FOUR SEATS WAS HALVED TO TWO. "FOR TRIESTE" WILL HAVE FOUR. HOWEVER, THE DROP FROM 1973 IN THE VOTE TOTAL FOR THE MAJOR PARTIES IN TRIESTE IN THE REGIONAL ELECTIONS IS MOST SIGNIFICANT:
DC: 10,000 - PCI: 5,000 - PSI: 7,000, PSDI: 7,000 - PRI: 5,000 - PLI: 10,000, AND MSI: 13,000. TOTAL LOSSES ACCOUNT FOR MOST OF THE "FOR TRIESTE" GAIN.

4. WHILE OSIMO WAS AT THE HEART OF THE MATTER, THE "FOR TRIESTE" GROUP WAS ABLE TO GALVANIZE LOCAL ANTI-ROME, ANTI-TRADITIONAL PARTY, AND GENERAL DISAFFECTION INTO AN EFFECTIVE PRO-TRIESTE CAMPAIGN, CUTTING ACROSS ALL PARTIES. SIGNIFICANTLY, THE FRIULI MOVEMENT (MF) ALSO GAINED 15,000 VOTES WHICH IS PROBABLY ALMOST TOTALLY DUE TO A PERCEIVED LACK OF PROGRESS BY ROME IN EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION. THE SLOVENE UNION (SU) DROPPED A BIT BUT WILL STILL HAVE ONE SEAT IN THE COUNCIL. GAINS BY LOCAL MOVEMENTS SEEM CONFIRMED IN VAL D'AOSTA AS WELL.

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FM AMCONSUL TRIESTE

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5. TRIESTE CITY COUNCIL (IN PERCENTAGES)

1978 1976 1975 1972

POLITICAL PROVINCIAL COMMUNAL

DC	25.7	36.4	31.7	35.2
PCI	18.8	28.7	28.5	21.3
PSI	3.9	6.9	8.7	6.4
FOR TRIESTE	27.3	---	---	---
PSDI	2.1	3.1	5.1	7.6
PRI	2.2	4.6	4.8	5.1
PLI	1.1	2.0	4.8	7.3
MSI	7.1	10.2	11.4	12.5
RADICALS	5.8	3.0	---	---

6. BASED ON NEARLY COMPLETE RETURNS, "FOR TRIESTE" WILL BE THE LARGEST GROUP IN THE CITY COUNCIL. MORE THAN A FOURTH OF THE CITY ELECTORATE REBELLED AGAINST THE DC AND OTHER

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TRADITIONAL PARTIES. COMPARING THE RESULTS WITH THE 1972 COMMUNAL ELECTIONS, THE DC LOST 10 PERCENTAGE POINTS AS DID THE PCI. INTERESTINGLY, THE RADICALS ALSO WON ABOUT

SIX PERCENT OF THE VOTE AND IT SEEMS THAT MARCO PANNELLA
WILL BE LEADING THE RADICAL GROUP IN CITY HALL.

7. COMMENT. WHILE DEFINITIVE ANALYSIS MUST AWAIT COMPLETE
INFORMATION, ETC., IT IS CLEAR THAT THE DC IS CONFRONTED
WITH A POTENT PROTEST MOVEMENT IN TRIESTE WHICH HAS ALSO
GIVEN A BOOST TO THE FRIULI MOVEMENT. TRADITIONAL GIUNTAS
AT BOTH THE CITY MUNICIPAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS WILL BE MUCH
HARDER TO COME BY AS A RESULT AND FOR TRIESTE GROUP WILL HAVE
A BIG SAY IN ANY OUTCOME, PARTICULARLY IN TRIESTE. IN THE
LATTER CASE, NO VIABLE GIUNTA COMBINATION SEEMS READILY
APPARENT, AND TRIESTE MAY BE FACED WITH HAVING EITHER A
GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER OR A ROMAN-STYLE PROGRAMMATIC
ACCORD. MOEN.

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